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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**PCT****INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 045004	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2004/000881	International filing date (day/month/year) 1 July 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 1 July 2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 A45D 26/00, 27/42			
Applicant DRANGANOUDIS, Lambrini			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

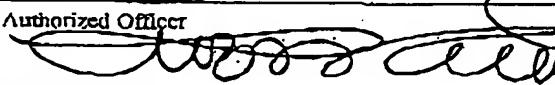
a. (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of 6 sheets, as follows:

- sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 1 February 2005	Date of completion of the report 31 October 2005	10 OCT 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pci@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  G.B. NATH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2126	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000881

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

- the international application as originally filed/furnished
- the description:
 - pages 1, 3-11 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* 2, 2A, 2B received by this Authority on 27 October 2005 with the letter of 27 October 2005
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- the claims:
 - pages as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - pages* 12-14 received by this Authority on 27 October 2005 with the letter of 27 October 2005
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- the drawings:
 - pages 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (specify):
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (specify):
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No
PCT/AU2004/000881

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-11, 14	YES
	Claims 12-13, 15-16	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-11,	YES
	Claims 12-14, 15-16	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-16	YES
	Claims None	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**Documents cited in the International Search Report:**

D1: US 4977672 A (HAMILTON), 18 December 1990

D2: EP 1040873 B1 (L'OREAL), 4 October 2000

D3: FR 2500282 A (MONDIN), 27 August 1982

D4: FR 2802067 A (SEB SA), 15 June 2001

2.1 Novelty(N) and Inventive Step(IS):**a) Novelty:**

Claims 1-11: D1 is the most relevant document cited in the International Search Report. It does not disclose a template for a negative pattern of hair (see lines 20-22, page 1 and item 13, figure 1 for a definition of a negative pattern in the context of the specification). Accordingly Claims 1-11 are considered to be novel.

Claims 12- 13 however, are applicable to a positive pattern template and hence are considered to be not novel as compared to D1. Claim 14 defines the application of depilatory agent around shaped periphery of the template which is applicable to a negative pattern only and thus considered to be novel.

Claims 15-16 define a template for (suitable for) application of a depilatory agent ... etc. Any known piece of flexible sheeting is suitable for the purpose and thus lacks novelty.

b) Inventive Step:

D1 discloses a positive pattern template vis-à-vis the claims 1-11, 14 which define a system and method of a negative pattern template. However, a person skilled in the art when confronted with the problem of creating a negative pattern of hair (pubic or otherwise) will arrive at the solution without having to use their inventive ingenuity with the teachings of D1 and thus Claims 1-11, 14 lack an inventive step over D1.

Claims 12-13, 15-16 : See discussions under novelty above.

2.2 All the claims meet the criteria of Industrial Applicability.

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a portion of hair. Similarly, shaped pattern may be desired in the hair of the chest.

In all these applications, the shaping of a well defined recognizable pattern by the application of waxes, razors, creams, sprays or other depilatory agents is awkward.

It is an object of the present invention to address or ameliorate the above disadvantages or to offer a useful alternative.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

Accordingly, in a first broad form of the invention, there is provided a system for the removal of unwanted hair by means of a template and a depilatory agent; said system adapted to the provision of a pattern by said removal; said template in the form of flexible sheeting and wherein the shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting defines said pattern; and wherein said depilatory agent is applied to said hair exposed around said shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting.

Preferably, said unwanted hair includes pubic hair.

Preferably, said unwanted hair includes chest hair.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes razors.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes electric shavers.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes waxes.

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Preferably, said depilatory agent includes creams.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes mousse.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes gels.

Preferably, said depilatory agent includes spray-on formulations.

Preferably, application of said depilatory agent provides a region of remaining hair substantially coextensive with said template.

In a further broad form of the invention there is provided a method for the provision of a pattern around an area of hair by removing a defined portion of said area of hair; said pattern being defined by a boundary between removed hair and remaining hair; said method including the steps of:

preparing a template defining said pattern,

application of said template to said area of hair,

application of a depilatory agent to exposed portions of said area of hair as defined by said template,

removal of said depilatory agent and said template revealing a pattern of remaining hair.

Preferably, said template comprises flexible sheeting provided with a shaped periphery defining said pattern.

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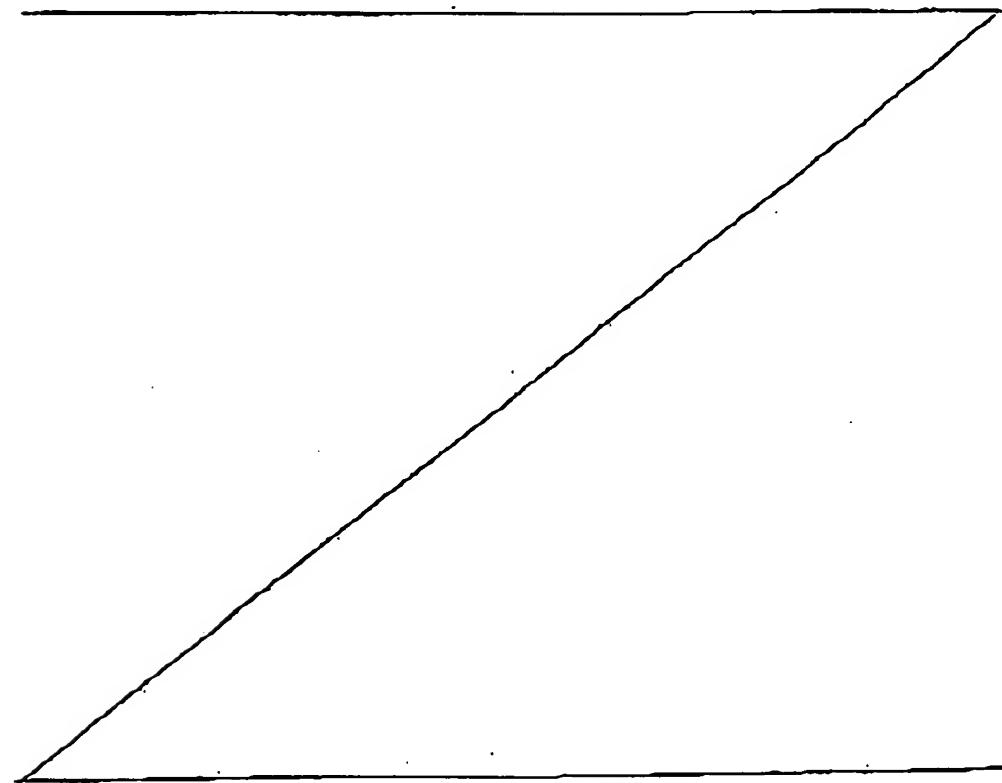
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Preferably, said depilatory agent is applied to hair exposed around said shaped periphery of said template.

In yet a further broad form of the invention there is provided a pubic hair patterning template for application of a depilatory agent so as to provide a shaped region of said pubic hair; said template comprising a flexible sheeting formed with a shaped periphery defining said shaped region.

Preferably, said depilatory agent is applied around said shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting.



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CLAIMS IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 DEC 2005

1. A system for the removal of unwanted hair by means of a template and a depilatory agent; said system adapted to the provision of a pattern by said removal; said template in the form of flexible sheeting and wherein the shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting defines said pattern; and wherein said depilatory agent is applied to said hair exposed around said shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said unwanted hair includes pubic hair.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said unwanted hair includes chest hair.
4. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes razors.
5. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes electric shavers.
6. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes waxes.
7. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes creams.
8. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes mousse.

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9. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes gels.

10. The system of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said depilatory agent includes spray-on formulations.

5 11. The system of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein application of said depilatory agent provides a region of remaining hair substantially coextensive with said template.

10 12. A method for the provision of a pattern around an area of hair by removing a defined portion of said area of hair; said pattern being defined by a boundary between removed hair and remaining hair; said method including the steps of:

(a) preparing a template defining said pattern,

15 (b) application of said template to said area of hair,

(c) application of a depilatory agent to exposed portions of said area of hair as defined by said template,

20 (d) removal of said depilatory agent and said template revealing a pattern of remaining hair.

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13. The method of claim 12 wherein said template comprises flexible sheeting provided with a shaped periphery defining said pattern.

5 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said depilatory agent is applied to hair exposed around said shaped periphery of said template.

10 15. A pubic hair patterning template for application of a depilatory agent so as to provide a shaped region of said pubic hair; said template comprising a flexible sheeting formed with a shaped periphery defining said shaped region.

16. The template of claim 15 wherein said depilatory agent is applied around said shaped periphery of said flexible sheeting.

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